

## Message Text

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62

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20

DRC-01 IO-14 /166 W

----- 107512

R 271645Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4942

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS TUNIS 1786

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJECT: RIADH INTERVIEW ON AMERICAN-EUROPEAN "QUARREL" IN  
MIDDLE EAST AND ROLE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. FRENCH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER LA PRESSE PUBLISHED MARCH 27  
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF ARAB LEAGUE  
MAHMOUD RIADH. AFTER DECLARING HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT  
RESULTS OF CURRENT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING AND THAT "THIS SESSION  
IN TUNIS WILL BE POSITIVE", RIADH ANSWERED QUESTIONS GIVING  
INTERESTING RESPONSES ABOUT AMERICAN-EUROPEAN "QUARREL" IN  
MIDDLE EAST AND ROLE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER.

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2. AFTER NOTING THAT TUNIS ARAB LEAGUE CONFERENCE WOULD

PERMIT ARABS TO TAKE A COMMON POSITION FOR CONFERENCE WITH EUROPEAN, RIADH STATED, " I HAVE NOTICED THAT THE AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PRESS SPEAKS OF THE PROBLEM AS IF IT WAS A QUESTION OF DISPUTING A 'TERRITORY' -- THE MIDDLE EAST... CERTAIN AMERICANS AND CERTAIN EUROPEANS FORGET SOMETIMES THAT THERE IS A THIRD ELEMENT IN PLAY, AND THAT IS THE ARAB WORLD, WHICH ALSO HAS PERHAPS ITS WORD TO SAY. THIS QUARREL OF EUROPE AND AMERICAN IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR US. WE ARE NOT A 'BIG CAKE' THAT CAN BE DIVIDED."

3. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST AND HIS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS, RIADH SAID, "THERE IS NO LONGER ANY DOUBT: THE ARABS MUST DECIDE THEMSELVES ABOUT THE LIBERATION OF THEIR COUNTRIES AND THAT OF THE PALESTINIANS. IT IS OBVIOUS THEY WILL FOLLOW ANY PEACE PROPOSITION... WHAT WILL BE THE GOAL OF (KISSINGER'S) INITIATIVE? TO WHAT DEGREE WILL IT GENERATE PEACE? I AM

HARDLY TRYING TO DIMINISH WHAT KISSINGER IS IN THE PROCESS OF DOING. I RECOGNIZE HIS INTELLIGENCE, HIS COMPETENCE AND HIS SINCERITY. REGARDING HIS EFFICIENCY, THE FUTURE WILL TELL US."

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## Message Attributes

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